SHADOWS IN OAK PARK

THE HAUNTINGS OF A SACRAMENTO HOME

By Paul Dale Roberts, Halo Paranormal Investigations

Oak Park, Sacramento, has long been known for its haunted history, with homes dating back to the 1800s and tales of wandering spirits. So, when we received a call from Martin Purtill and Dawn Parmeter about strange occurrences at their 1930s-era home, we knew this would be a case worth investigating.

With its eerie reputation and history, Oak Park seemed like the perfect setting for a paranormal investigation, and as we would soon discover, the activity in this house would not disappoint.

Our investigative team for the night included myself, T. Hawkins, S. McCabe, Lou Paman, and Dee Pizarro. As we arrived for the investigation, we were warmly greeted by the homeowners, Martin Purtill and Dawn Parmeter. Martin and Dawn told us about the strange occurrences they'd been experiencing, especially in the storage house in the backyard. Martin gave us a tour of the property, including the storage house and barn.

When I entered the storage house, I immediately felt a strange atmosphere — a tingling sensation ran down my arms. I began taking digital photos, and in the very first one, I captured some orb activity. While orbs can often be explained as dust or light refractions, they may be considered paranormal if they show intelligent movement. However, in my second and third photos, no orbs appeared. As I stood there, I swear I saw a shadow dart across the lawn out of the corner of my eye. Something was definitely happening at this house.

Martin and Dawn shared that they had both seen moving shadows and often feel strange energy around the storage house. Dawn said she sometimes felt as though she was being watched from the barn window. Both have experienced cold spots throughout the home and backyard. On one occasion, Dawn felt a presence behind her, which sent chills through her body.

She described the storage house as consistently damp, dark, and muggy. She also recounted the time she witnessed an unplugged fan suddenly start moving at full speed. Their cats, Jasper and Booger, have been seen hissing at empty space, as if reacting to something invisible.

Martin believes they may have encountered a male spirit. He even dug up an old chimney in the backyard, which made him wonder if another house once stood on the property. Martin explained that the paranormal activity has been happening since his parents owned the house. According to local legend, the man who built the house did so for his wife, who died in the home. It's possible that the spirits of this couple still reside there.

One of the most unsettling incidents was when a small unplugged TV in the backroom turned on by itself, emitting distinctive "white noise." Martin and Dawn heard people talking through the static, and while some words were inaudible, they distinctly heard the word "emergency," as though picking up a radio signal.

During our investigation, we captured a Class A EVP of a man's voice asking, "Why are you here?" Two investigators also heard growling noises coming from the storage house.

After reviewing the evidence, we determined that this home is indeed haunted. I performed a Roman Catholic house blessing, and the homeowners reported that the paranormal activity has significantly decreased since then. ◆